Doctoral student helps provide wireless computer access

Joseph Camp, doctoral student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, assisted Houston-area nonprofit Technology For All (TFA) in

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deploying a wireless network that provided high-speed connectivity to dozens of computers on the floor of the Astrodome. The TFA network, dubbed "ACT" for Astrodome Community Technology, was used by hundreds of evacuees each day and helped more than 1,000 evacuees reconnect with loved ones on its first day of service, said Will Reed, president of TFA.

ACT operated about 90 computers in the Astrodome, including 30 wireless laptops that relief workers carried throughout the stadium to interview evacuees. The ACT network is based on revolutionary Wi-Fi technology developed at Rice's Center for Multimedia Communication. TFA deployed ACT in collaboration with SBC, CompuCycle, SimHouston, Yahoo! and IBM.